

County in search of a budget

Finance committee chair to seek extension today

By AARON ALDRIDGE
Staff Writer

The Sullivan County executive finance committee is expected to file a continuing resolution at the start of the annual convention this morning because it has yet to complete the 2007-2008 budget.

Newport "I'm going to have to ask for it because we don't have a budget," committee chairperson Brenda Ferland, D-Charlestown, said during the final committee meeting Thursday afternoon. "The finance committee isn't ready."

The new fiscal year begins July 1 and the county delegation was expected to vote and pass a budget during the convention.

Ferland said that if her resolution doesn't pass, the delegation will be forced to pass a budget.

"We'll have to sit down and do a budget," Ferland said.

The commissioners proposed a \$27.6 million budget on May 30 that was presented to the delegation.

See **BUDGET** - Page A8

EAGLE TIMES

FRIDAY

JUNE 29, 2007

BUDGET FROM PAGE A1

Since that time, the finance committee has met several times to review the budget before it is brought before the convention.

"The only thing that has been settled is the county grants," committee member John Cloutier, D-Claremont, said.

Only four members of the finance committee were present at Thursday's meeting including Ferland, Cloutier, Larry Converse, D-Claremont and Sue Gottling, D-Sunapee.

"See why I don't have a budget?" Ferland asked. "I can't get a committee together."

Absent from the meeting were Peter Franklin, D-Newport, Ray Gagnon, D-Newport and Tom Donovan, D-Claremont.

Ferland also said one of the reasons she can't get a budget together is because she doesn't

know the salaries of the new jail superintendent or the consulting firm hired to run the nursing home.

"I think we need more concrete numbers from them," Ferland said.

The jail has been without a superintendent for several months and Genesis HealthCare was given a 30-day notice on June 13 that it would no longer be contracted to run the nursing home.

Ferland scheduled four more finance committee meetings for next week where she will attempt to finalize a budget.

"If we can get it done sooner, then we won't need all the meetings," she said.

Aaron Aldridge can be reached at (800) 545-0347 ext. 139, or by e-mail at aaldridge@eagletimes.com.